



Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the National Park Foundation, our donors and, most importantly, the over 400 national parks, historical monuments, and education programs we help support across the nation. We rely on the U.S. Mail to raise critical funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to protect and improve our national parks.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to connect 4th graders with local park experiences, clean up and create 48 miles of trails, remove nearly 8,000 pounds of invasive plant materials, or enable audio tours at the Flight 93 memorial, and other needed work within our national parks. Respectfully, we ask you to consider this consequence.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Sincerely,

John Wilburn

Director, Direct Response
National Park Foundation

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